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HEAVENWARD PATHS FOR LITTLE FEET

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HEAVENWARD PATHS FOR LITTLE FEET

BY THE AUTHOR OF "AT JESUS' FEET"

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To My Dear Little Daughter,

WITH THE EARNEST HOPE AND PRAYER, THAT IT MAY HELP TO GUIDE HER FEET IN HER HEAVEN-WARD WAY, THIS LITTLE BOOK

IS MOST LOVINGLY INSCRIBED.

Is this the way, my Father? 'Tis, my child;
Thou must pass through this dreary, tangled wild,
If thou wouldst reach the City undefiled,
Thy peaceful home above.

My Father, it is dark! Child, take my hand,
Cling close to me. I'll lead thee through the land;
Trust my all-seeing care: so shalt thou stand
'Midst glory bright above.

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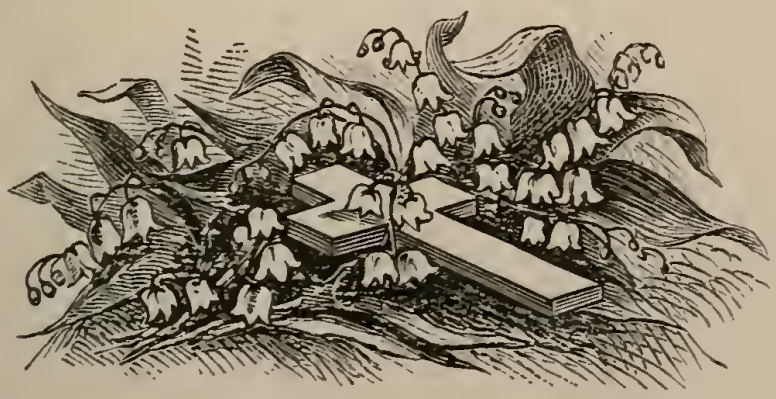
EVENING.

Hymns, I. to XXXI. 101–146

Now hear my prayer.
And be Thy staff my guide, my steps Thy care ;
Thy call I follow, summon where it may ;
Thy hand shall guide, where'er it points the way,
Thy light illumine, and Thy spirit cheer ;
Thy influence, ever active, ever near,
Shall gild the smiling hour with brighter ray,
And give to darkness some sweet gleams of day.



First Day.

LESSON.

AND when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him. And behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep. And His disciples came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

St. Matt. viii. 23–27.

As you read these verses, you can imagine the lovely lake of Gennesaret lying peacefully among the hills, when the disciples, little thinking of the dangers they would

meet, entered their little boat; and Jesus, who was with them, being very tired after teaching the people all day, lay down to sleep. Soon the wind began to blow, and such a furious tempest arose that the disciples, their faith failing them, awoke Jesus, saying, Carest Thou not that we perish? How this must have grieved His loving, tender heart! but how gentle He was in His reproof, and how ready to help them! Just so now, even the weakest little frightened child that goes to Him, feeling sure that Jesus will hear, is soothed, and helped to pass through the danger unharmed.

O Lord, who knowest us to be in the midst of so many dangers, and that we are too weak to help ourselves, be with us always in our times of need, as Thou wast with Thy disciples, granting us such strength and protection as may help us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Day.

LESSON.

HE shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom. ISAIAH xl. 11.

In olden times, the shepherds were very different from the men whom you often see now, driving the poor sheep so cruelly, for they were never intrusted with the care of the flocks, unless they had been proved to be faithful, kind men, who spent their whole time and strength in tenderly watching the sheep, guarding them from wolves, leading them to green pastures, and even carrying any poor weak little lamb, who was unable to walk. And this, dear little ones, is a beautiful picture of our Saviour, for He is a most tender Shepherd, always gently leading (not driving) His flock by

the best way, ready to keep them from all danger, and even carrying the little lambs in His loving arms; where He will keep them safely, if they will only trust Him, until He leads them to that beautiful Garden which His Father is preparing for them.

If you have never before given yourself to Jesus, go to Him to-day, and ask to be made one of His little lambs; then no matter how rough the path through this world, your Shepherd will always go before, gently leading and helping you in all trials and sorrows.

O Lord God, my heavenly Father, I thank Thee for the precious promise Thou hast sent me through thy Prophet, and for all the many mercies Thou hast given me. Increase, I pray Thee, my love for Thee, and grant that I may this day, and ever, be numbered among Thy little Lambs. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Third Day.

LESSON.

AND Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

And He called unto Him His disciples, and saith unto them, Verily, I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: for all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

ST. MARK xii. 41–44.

"I cannot do much," said a little star,
"To make the dark world bright!
My silvery beams cannot struggle far
Through the folding gloom of night!

But I'm only part of God's great plan,
And I'll cheerfully do the best that I can."

A child went merrily forth to play,
  But a thought, like a silver thread,
Kept winding in and out all day
  Through the happy golden head ;
Mother said, " Darling, do all you can !
For you are a part of God's great plan."

She knew no more than the glancing star,
  Nor the cloud, with its chalice full,
How, why, and for what the strange things were,
  She was only a child at school ;
But she thought, " It is part of God's great plan
That even I should do all that I can."

So she helped a younger child along,
  Where the road was rough to the feet,
And she sang from her heart a little song,
  That we all thought passing sweet.
And her father, a weary, toil-worn man,
Said, " I, too, will do the best that I can."

Our best ! ah ! children the best of us,
  Must hide our faces away,
When the Lord of the vineyard comes to look
  At our task at the close of day !

But for strength from above, tis the Master's plan,
We'll pray and we'll do the best that we can.

Most loving Saviour, who despisest not the smallest service, if done from love to Thee, help me, each day, to love Thee more and serve Thee better. For Thy dear Name's sake. Amen.

Fourth Day.

LESSON.

AS for me, I will call upon God: and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice. He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me; . . . . Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. Ps. lv. 16–18, 22.

I suppose almost every child has heard the story of Daniel, — how King Darius put him in a lion's den for praying (against his command) to God, three times a day, and when, the next morning, he found that God had shut the lions' mouths so that they could not hurt Daniel, he was very glad, and believed in God himself, and commanded that all the people should worship

Him. In the verses for the day from the Psalms we read how David, who lived five hundred years before Daniel, prayed three times a day too, feeling just as sure as Daniel was, that the same Omnipotent Lord would hear him and deliver him. Now how much more often and earnestly should we pray, who can ask all things in the precious name of Jesus Christ, having His faithful promise, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name believing, ye shall receive.

O God, my heavenly Father, who art as ready now to hear Thy children when they cry to Thee as Thou wast of old to hear David and Daniel, listen, I beseech Thee, to my prayers; make me to ask such things as shall please Thee: of Thy great goodness pardon all my sins, and give me grace to withstand the temptations of the world, and with pure heart and mind, to follow Thee, the only God, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Fifth Day.

LESSON.

BEAR ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. GAL. vi. 2.

No doubt you have often heard and read these words, but have you ever tried to obey them? Perhaps you scarcely ever think of pleasing others, but are always doing just what will please yourself. But this is not fulfilling the law of Christ. Or you may think yourself too young to help bear the burdens of those about you. But no one on earth can truly say they can do nothing; and although every one has not the same opportunities or duties, we all have some, and shall have to render an account of how we meet them, one day, before God. You remember the beautiful parable in the Bible of the ten talents, how our Lord reproached the servant who had not im-

proved his one talent. Just so it is with you ; very young and weak, it may be, and not able to do much, but something you can and ought to do for others. Even a kind word to one in pain, a little schoolmate helped in a difficult lesson, or a baby brother or sister amused while mother rests, is a burden borne, and will not be forgotten by Him who has said, that a cup of cold water, given in His name, shall not lose its reward. Pray earnestly to-day, dear child, that God will make you more like the blessed Saviour, who pleased not Himself, but went about doing good.

Almighty God, my heavenly Father, I thank Thee for Thy loving care of me all my life, and for having given me so many blessings to enjoy, but above all, I thank Thee that my Saviour came to die, that I might have everlasting life. For His dear sake, forgive all my sins, and help me by Thy Holy Spirit to grow in His likeness,

striving always to go about doing good. Bless all whom I love and make them to know and love Thee. Be with me, O Lord, this day, and all the days of my life, and finally save me in Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ, my Saviour. Amen.

Sixth Day.

LESSON.

AND the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the Lord called Samuel: And he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I, for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. Now Samuel did not

yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if He call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came, and stood and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. 1 SAM. iii. 1–10.

This lovely story shows how even the youngest child can serve God. And you, my dear little reader, were dedicated to God when a baby just as Samuel was, and are just as much bound to give all your life to His service. Of course little children do not now minister in a church as he did, but

no day passes in which there is not some kind deed to be done, some gentle, loving words to be spoken, and temptations to be resisted, and if these are all done for Jesus' sake, you are serving God just as truly as Samuel did.

O Almighty Lord, the aid of all who need, I beseech Thee, look upon me in mercy, as I come to give myself to Thee. Sanctify me by the Holy Ghost, and grant that I may so pass through this world, that I finally come to the eternal kingdom which Thou hast promised, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Seventh Day.

LESSON.

AND it came to pass the day after, that He went into a city called Nain: and many of His disciples went with Him, and much people. Now, when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And He came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And He said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak: and He delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited His people. And this rumor of Him went

forth throughout all Judea, and throughout all the region round about.

St. Luke vii. 11–17.

Here, in this beautiful story, we have a glimpse of the loving, tender heart of Jesus, for when He saw this sorrowing mother "He had compassion on her." No doubt her earthly friends felt very sorry for her too, and had tried in every way, by kind and soothing words, to comfort her; but they were as unable then as now, for only Jesus can see how deep our sorrow is; and although He may not always answer our prayers in the way we desire, but often even take those we love best from us, as a mother takes away from her little child what she knows it will be better without, still is He the same loving, sympathizing friend, as when He raised the widow's son, and He is just as ready now to comfort all who go to Him with their troubles.

O most loving Saviour, who in Thy tender compassion didst raise the widow's son, make me always to go to Thee in all my troubles, and even to thank Thee for sending them, if they but teach me more of Thy great love, for Thy dear name's sake. Amen.

Eighth Day.

LESSON.

AND when much people were gathered together, and were come to Him out of every city, He spake by a parable: A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way-side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundred-fold. And when He had said these things, He cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And His disciples asked Him, saying, What might this parable be? And He said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables;

that seeing, they might not see, and hearing, they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way-side, are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns, are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares, and riches, and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. ST. LUKE viii. 4–15.

Did you ever have a little garden, and in the spring plant different seeds, watching eagerly day after day for them to spring

up? and then how fast they grew! and soon a beautiful flower was ready to take to mamma. In this story Jesus tells you, dear child, that your heart is one of His gardens, where every Sunday His ministers, and at all times your dear mother, are sowing little seeds, and watching most anxiously to see whether you will bear beautiful flowers of gentleness, love, and holiness, or the ugly briars, and thistles, which Satan so delights to see. All the loving words of Christ that you hear, and are taught, will be of little use, unless you watch and pray earnestly to live by them.

O Lord God, I thank Thee that I am so often permitted to hear Thy word preached, and I pray that it may not fall on a stony heart, or be taken from me by the devil, but that having heard it, I may bring forth fruit to Thy glory. I ask it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Ninth Day.

LESSON.

I AM the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. St. John xi. 25.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain; But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body. So also is the resurrection of the seed. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the

twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. xv. 22, 35–38, 42, 51–57.

You know how every autumn the beautiful flowers fade and die, and all winter nothing is seen but the brown, dry stalk; but in the spring the little buds come forth, and the flowers bloom again, more lovely than ever. In the same way, all the little

children who die loving Jesus will He bring to life again with perfect, sinless bodies, able to enjoy the beautiful home which He has gone to prepare for all that love Him.

O Lord Jesus, who, by Thy glorious resurrection, hast overcome death, and opened unto me the gate of everlasting life, give me grace to walk in newness of life; and to abound in all righteousness; so that I may not fear death, and may rise in Thy likeness, who art Lord over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Tenth Day.

LESSON.

NOW there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been a long time in that case, He saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered Him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth

down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the Sabbath.

St. John v. 2–9.

If such a pool as this were to be found now, where all the poor sick people could be cured, what crowds would surround it continually! God, in His great mercy, has provided just as simple a remedy for the worst of all diseases, sin; and yet how few accept it! If you read these verses carefully, you will see that only the one who *first* stepped into the water after the angel appeared was healed. How much more free and perfect the gift to us! For all, not only the strongest, or oldest, but all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved. The very weakest little child, who perhaps is not thought old enough to go often to God's house, can, by kneeling in his own

room, and asking Jesus to pardon all his sins, and make him one of His own children, feel as sure that he was heard, as if he were the oldest, and most devoted Christian.

My Father, who art in Heaven, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, my Saviour, hear me when I cry unto Thee, pardon all my sins, give me great faith to believe Thy precious promises, and grant unto me grace to grow daily more and more like Jesus. Amen.

Eleventh Day.

LESSON.

CHILDREN, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong, shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

COL. iii. 20, 23–25.

Many little boys and girls who never openly refused to do what father or mother told them, would no doubt be very much surprised, if they were told they were disobedient children; but simply doing what you are obliged to do, is not what Christ means by obeying. It is the motive in the heart, and the smiling, cheerful way in

which you obey, no matter how unpleasant the thing to be done, which pleases Jesus.

Begin this very day; first, by praying for Divine help, for without this you can do nothing; then by doing all you are asked, in such a pleasant way, that those about you will see that you are trying to be a faithful little soldier of Christ; and I am sure, after a day of such obedience, you will feel much happier than if you had sullenly gone through all your little duties casting a shade on all about you, instead of being a little sunbeam to brighten your home.

O Lord God, my heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, give me Thy Holy Spirit to dwell within me, so that when I pray and read Thy holy word, Thy Spirit may teach me; that when I am tempted, Thy Spirit may help me; and that it may make and keep me a holy child all the days of my life. Amen.

Twelfth Day.

LESSON.

AND He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

ST. LUKE xviii. 9–14.

Our Saviour told His disciples a great many parables, knowing that a little story would interest them, and make them remember better what He wanted to teach them. And this one I think we should all read very often ; for certainly little children, as well as grown persons, are very apt to see all the naughty things their friends do, and because they do not speak or act in the same way, think themselves very good, instead of remembering that this very thinking evil of others is a sin for which they should ask God's forgiveness. Always remember that the Lord looks right into your heart, and cannot be deceived.

Most merciful and loving Father, I am but too ready to see the wrong that others do, and to excuse myself. Make me, I pray Thee, truly humble, and to know that nothing I can do of myself is good ; and help me each day to grow more like my blessed Saviour for His dear sake. Amen.

Thirteenth Day.

LESSON.

WHEREFORE, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. HEB. xii. 1, 2.

These two verses are a part of one of Saint Paul's sermons to the Hebrews; but I think there is quite enough in these alone for a whole sermon to little children. He first says, "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us." You know how impossible it would be to

swim with heavy boots on, or pull a sled with a great load of lead on it, and how soon you would pull off the boots, or cut the lead loose ; and just so when we are trying to live as Christ would have us, there are always old sinful habits, which are very heavy, and will drag us back from the right path, unless we constantly fight against them. Ask yourself to-day what are the sins that most easily beset you. We are all tempted to sin, but not all by the same things. One child may be tempted to be selfish, and this is his besetting sin. Another may be vain, pleased when any one notices her. Another sin, by which almost all are tempted is anger ; and so I might tell you of very many ; but you must look into your own heart, little reader, and find there by what *you* are most easily beset, and then look unto Jesus, for power and grace to conquer and resist whatever temptations assail you. He has said, Ask, and ye shall receive.

O most Blessed Saviour, who wast tempted like as I am, but without sin, grant me strength, I beseech Thee, to resist all temptations, and live according to Thy holy will, until I come to that heavenly home that Thou art preparing for them that love Thee. Amen.

Fourteenth Day.

LESSON.

AND Saul armed David with his armor, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. And the Philistine came on, and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair coun-

tenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? and the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands. And it came to pass, when the

Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran towards the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

1 SAM. xvii. 38–51.

Don't you think, little reader, that in David's place you would have been afraid to fight that great giant? I am sure of it; and so would he, had he not been perfectly sure that God would give him strength to over-

come. Now, we all have, not only one giant to fight against, but any number, as temper, selfishness, pride, deceit, and many others; and unless we daily ask for strength from God, we can never hope to conquer them.

O most merciful Father, I come beseeching Thee to make me one of Christ's flock; and grant that I may have power and strength manfully to fight under His banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto my life's end. Amen.

Fifteenth Day.

LESSON.

HO, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live: and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He

will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

ISAIAH lv. 1–3, 6–9.

You would think it very foolish in any one who was very hungry and thirsty to refuse bread and water, if it were offered them by some kind person, and yet there are hundreds in the world who are doing this every day; for God, in His great mercy, is offering, through His ministers and in the Bible, to feed all who come to Him, without money, and without price; not with earthly bread only, but to give them new hearts, that will love Him, and be always striving to please Him, — sorry when they are tempted to evil, but able to go right to Jesus for pardon, knowing He will hear, and having that great peace and joy which sat-

isfies one, just as fresh, cool water satisfies a thirsty man. If you want this blessing, little one, all you have to do is to kneel down and ask God to give it to you for the dear Saviour's sake.

O most merciful Father, pardon all my past sins, and grant unto me, as Thou hast promised, a new heart to fear and love Thee. I am utterly unworthy to come to Thee, but ask it all for my dear Saviour's sake. Amen.

Sixteenth Day.

LESSON.

IN those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples unto Him, and saith unto them, I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far. And His disciples answered Him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness? And He asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven.

And He commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and He took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to His disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the

people. And they had a few small fishes: and He blessed, and commanded to set them also before them.

So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left, seven baskets. And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and He sent them away. ST. MARK viii. 1–9.

This wonderful miracle teaches us that Jesus cares for our bodily as well as spiritual wants, and that He is as sorry now for any little hungry child, as He was, when on earth, for the multitude in the wilderness. He was very weary, and would, had He been only human, have thought of Himself alone, and of getting rest as soon as possible: but no, in His loving-kindness He had compassion, and fed the hungry crowd; a crowd, too, of people who cared nothing for Him, coming only to see and hear Him from curiosity. What a beautiful example this for us to follow! We should pray every

day to be made as unselfish as He was, thinking ever how we can minister to the comfort and happiness of all about us.

O God, who art the giver of all good things, grant that I may love Thy Holy Name more and more, and daily grow to think less of myself, and more of others, like my blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Seventeenth Day.

LESSON.

AND it came to pass, as He went to Jerusalem, that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when He saw them, He said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

And Jesus answering, said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

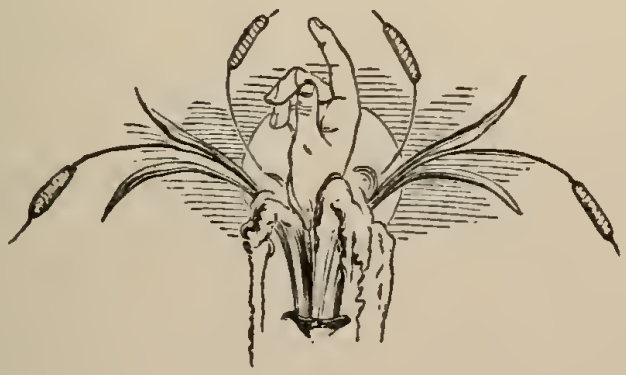
And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

St. Luke xvii. 11–19.

These men, even though they lived so many hundred years ago, were very like us, in all being ready, when they wanted Jesus to cure them, to cry to Him, and then forgetting to thank Him for His mercy.

Only one returned and gave God the glory. And we have so much more to be thankful for than they, for they only asked to have their bodies cleansed and cured, while we, through Jesus, ask, and hope to have all our sins washed away. Let us, each day, not only pray for what we want, but give thanks for the many mercies that are so bountifully showered upon us, and show that we are thankful by loving and pleasing our Saviour.

Most merciful Father, I thank Thee, for all Thy many and great mercies, but above all, that Thy dear son, Jesus Christ, came into the world to die, that I might be saved; and I beseech Thee, grant unto me, Thy little child, pardon and peace, that I may be cleansed from all my sins, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.



Eighteenth Day.

LESSON.

BUT now thus saith the Lord that created thee, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west. I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

ISAIAH xliii. 1–5, 25.

If you, through carelessness, and perhaps through weakness, had had very imperfect lessons, so that your school diary was full of bad marks, would you not be very grateful to your teacher if, because his own son, whom he loved very much, asked him, he should blot out all the poor marks, and forgive all your faults? And this is what God has promised to do for all who ask Him, for the sake of His dear Son Jesus Christ. The most devoted Christian man is constantly doing wrong, and could never stand before God at the last day without fear, if Jesus had not died in his stead; so that we may all feel sure that our sins are blotted out of the Book of Life, if we humbly trust in Jesus, and earnestly strive to live as He would have us.

O most merciful Father, hear my prayer this morning, as I kneel before Thee, a very weak and erring child. I can do nothing aright of myself, and need Thy help

every hour. Forgive, I beseech Thee, all my sins, and blot them out of the book of Thy remembrance forever, and make me each day to grow in grace and in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name I ask it all. Amen.

Nineteenth Day.

LESSON.

NOW the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made: and he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know, that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise; she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat;

and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked: and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard Thy voice in the garden: and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. GEN. iii. 1–10.

Why do you think Adam was afraid, when he heard the Lord calling him in the garden? God had often spoken to him before, and he had loved to hear Him, but now both Adam and Eve fled, and hid themselves. It was because they had yielded to Satan, and disobeyed God, and hoped to be able to hide from Him, in His

just anger; but this was as impossible then as now, and God drove them forth out of the beautiful garden, where they had been so happy, living in perfect peace, with everything they could wish for, and nothing to do but enjoy it, and praise God; but after their sin, they suffered pain of all kinds, and were obliged to toil hard to get their subsistence. In all you do, or say, or think, little reader, remember that it is just as impossible for you to deceive, or hide from God, as it was for Adam and Eve, for He reads all hearts; but at the same time remember, that if you are truly sorry for your sins, and ask Him to forgive, for Jesus' sake, He surely will.

For the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, O most loving Father, pardon all my sins, and give me strength to resist all the temptations of the devil. Amen.

Twentieth Day.

LESSON.

BE ye therefore followers of God as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light; For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness, and truth; Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

EPH. V. 1, 2, 8–10.

Come hither, little Christian, and hearken unto me;
I'll teach thee what the daily life of a Christian child should be.
When a Christian child awaketh, he should think of God in heaven,
And softly say, "I thank Thee, Lord, for the sleep which Thou hast given."
He must say when he ariseth, "From evil and from harm,

Defend Thy little child, O Lord, with Thine almighty arm."
Then dressing very quietly, the Christian child should say,
"With Thy spotless robe of righteousness, Lord, clothe my soul, I pray."
He reverently kneeleth to pray beside his bed,
With closèd eyes and humble voice his earnest prayers are said ;
And as he thus approacheth the God of heaven above,
God looketh down and smileth on this little child in love.
He goeth to his chamber, to his work, or to his play,
But the prayers that he hath prayèd he must keep in mind all day ;
He hath asked to be obedient, and so he must fulfill
His parents' bidding cheerfully, with a glad mind and will.
In all his daily duties he diligent must be,
And think, "Whate'er I do, O Lord, I do it unto Thee."
When the little Christian playeth, he must use no angry word,
For his little fellow-Christians are members of the Lord.

If a playmate take his playthings, he must not rudely try
To snatch them back, but mildly ask, or meekly pass them by.
He hath asked to be made holy, so he must strive all day
To yield his will to others' will — his way to others' way.
When in a fault he falleth, he must not hide the stain —
Repentance and confession must yield their needed pain.
He must kneel then in his chamber, confess what he hath done,
And ask to be forgiven for the sake of God's dear Son.
Again when evening cometh, the Christian child will pray,
And praise the Lord for blessings given to him throughout the day.
Then his soul to God committing, he quietly may sleep ;
God and His holy angel host will watch around him keep.
God bless thee, little Christian ! be holy, loving, mild,
Obedient, truthful, diligent — a truly humble child.

God bless thee, little Christian! and may thy life agree
With what the holy Bible says a Christian child should be.

Most gracious Father, knowing that I am too weak to live as becomes Thy little child, I come to-day to ask that Thou wilt give me grace to grow more and more like my dear Saviour, in loving every one, and in trying to please Thee in all things. Hear me now, and always, for His name's sake. Amen.

Twenty-first Day.

LESSON.

AND He entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus, seeing their faith, said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith He to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house.

But when the multitude saw it, they

marveled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

St. Matt. ix. 1–8.

Perhaps you will think, O, if I had lived when Jesus was on the earth, I would not have been so faithless as these people, but would have believed as soon as I saw His miracles. But remember that the Jews were expecting a King to come with great pomp and state: when Jesus came, just like any other helpless little baby, and for so many years lived in such poverty, it was very difficult for them to believe that He was really God, and able to forgive sins; but when they saw that He even knew their thoughts, it was impossible for them any longer not to see that the power came from God. Let us never forget to thank God that we have been taught from our earliest years to believe that He is always ready to forgive our sins for Jesus' sake, if we are truly sorry for them.

O most merciful Father, I am very sorry for all the sins I have committed against Thee. I have done many things I ought not to have done, and have left undone many things that Thou hast commanded. Pardon me, for Christ's sake, and grant me grace each day, to grow in holiness, and make me more meet for my heavenly home. Amen.

Twenty-second Day.

LESSON.

NOW Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a leper. And the Syrians had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel. And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes. And when Elisha, the man of God, had heard that the king had rent his clothes, he sent to the king saying, Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in

Israel. So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. And his servants came near, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash and be clean? Then he dipped himself seven times in Jordan, and his flesh came again, and he was clean. And he returned to the man of God, and said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel. 2 KINGS v. 1–15.

This is all that we know of the little

captive maiden whom God had sent to be such a blessing to Naaman, but this is enough to teach us of what use we may be to others if, like her, we turn thinking into doing, whenever God puts such thoughts into our hearts, by His Holy Spirit. She knew that Elisha could make Naaman well, so she conquered her fear, and spoke to her mistress. How thankful and happy she must have been to find her master not only cleansed from his leprosy, but his heart changed, and he become an humble believer in God. Cannot you, little one, tell some ignorant child how willing and able Jesus is to cleanse them from all sin, which is far worse than leprosy?

Heavenly Father, for the dear Saviour's sake, wash me thoroughly from all my sins. Amen.

Twenty-third Day.

LESSON.

GOD is a Spirit: and they that worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth. St. John iv. 24.

As a lady, who was just recovering from a long illness, was sitting by her window one lovely summer Sunday morning, listening to the church bells, she fell asleep and dreamed that a beautiful angel appeared to her, saying, Come with me to God's holy house, where it is my duty to record the names of those who are sincere and humble worshippers. You will see how few there are whose prayers are acceptable to Him. And as he ceased speaking, she thought they stood within her own little church, where she had so often herself dishonored God by wandering thoughts; then the angel said, Those prayers and

praises which come from the heart, and which alone ascend to God, will seem to be spoken aloud ; but where the thoughts wander, the words grow faint, and cease altogether. How strange and awful seemed the silence ! for although all lips seemed moving, only a few voices could be heard, and among those, the clearest and strongest was the sweet voice of a little charity boy, as he reverently repeated the Lord's Prayer ; and the angel wrote his name on his tablet. Remember, dear child, whenever you are in God's House, that He is a Spirit, and that true heart worship is the only kind that He will accept. One earnest prayer, or one hymn of praise sung because your heart is full of love to God, is better than the whole Church service when your mind is full of your own thoughts. Think what a solemn thing it is to come into the presence of God, before whom even the angels veil their faces ; and how thankful should we be that we are

granted this blessed privilege every Sunday.

May you always go with a thankful heart and a reverent spirit.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Twenty-fourth Day.

LESSON.

THEN came Peter to Him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellow-servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your

hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

St. Matt. xviii. 21–35.

Whenever you are tempted to say, as I have often heard little children, when very angry, "O, I will never forgive you!" remember what Jesus said to Peter, that he must not only forgive seven times, but four hundred and ninety times, or as often as any one offended him.

We certainly would never even allow ourselves to have an unforgiving thought, if we would think of all that Christ has forgiven us, and how we constantly do, over and over again, the very things we know displease Him, and still He has patience with us.

Grant unto me, most loving Father, more of Christ's forgiving spirit, that I may daily grow in His likeness. I ask it all for His dear sake. Amen.

Twenty-fifth Day.

LESSON.

AND He said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against Heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. ST. LUKE XV. 11–24.

This is one of the most beautiful parables Jesus ever told, and ought to be prized by

us all very much, because it is meant to teach us that God, our heavenly Father, will lovingly receive all those truly sorry for their sins who go to Him, begging to be forgiven, no matter how often they have forgotten Him, and wandered away from the right path, as the poor prodigal wandered from his home. We should never cease to thank Him for this wonderful love to us poor, sinful little children.

My Father in heaven, who art always more ready to hear than I am to pray, and never turnest from Thy penitent children, forgive, I pray Thee, all my sinful wanderings, and make me truly sorry, and anxious to please Thee henceforth in all things, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Twenty-sixth Day.

LESSON.

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ROM. xii. 1–3.

These verses for to-day tell us what Christ expects of all His children, that they shall "present" their bodies a living sacri-

fice unto God. The poor ignorant heathen throw their babies to the crocodiles to be devoured ; and widows give themselves up to be burned, with their dead husbands, thinking this sacrifice will please God, and gain them a place in heaven. But we know that Jesus was offered up on the cross for us, as the only sacrifice that God would accept, and all we have to do is to simply believe and trust in Him, to be saved. Still, as a proof of our love, He asks and expects a daily living sacrifice, which means, not of a dead body, but of all our talents, and that all powers of mind and body should be used in His service, and in helping to teach others the way to heaven.

Try, dear little one, at school and at home or wherever you may be to-day, to remember that you belong to Christ, and that no matter how simple the kindness, or how small the self-denial, if done from love to Jesus, it will be accepted by Him.

O most merciful Father, I heartily thank Thee for keeping me through the past night, and for all the many blessings which Thou hast given me, but above all that Jesus came to die, that I might be saved. Grant that I may not only thank Thee with my lips, but by giving my whole life to thy service. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Twenty-seventh Day.

LESSON.

SO Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where He made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judea into Galilee, he went unto Him, and besought Him that He would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death. Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. The nobleman saith unto Him, Sir, come down ere my child die. Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying: Thy son liveth. Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said

unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when He was come out of Judea into Galilee. ST. JOHN iv. 46–54.

All the miracles that Jesus did seem intended to teach us exactly what faith is, and how it is only those who believe and trust Him who are saved.

If you read the fiftieth verse, you will see that the nobleman believed when Jesus told him that his son lived, just as fully as if he had seen him at the time get up from his sick bed. We never hear of Christ healing any one who did not believe first that He was able to do so; and this is what you must do, little one, when you go to Jesus. Ask Him to be your Saviour, fully believ-

ing all His precious promises, and then try to do all that He has commanded.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; and I come to ask Thy blessing to-day. Thou hast suffered and died for my redemption, and I pray that I may cling to Thy cross as all my hope. Forgive all my sins, and make me, with all near and dear to me, obedient to Thy will, that we may be happy here, and forever. Amen.

Twenty-eighth Day.

LESSON.

AND when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness, and all manner of disease. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body

in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall to the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not, therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

St. Matt. x. 1, 5–8, 22, 28–33.

These were some of the comforting words Jesus spoke to His disciples, as He was sending them forth to teach. They knew that very few would receive them kindly, or believe what they preached, and that many would no doubt ill use, and even try to kill them; but still they were ready to bear all if for Jesus' sake: and Christ tells them to fear nothing, for their heavenly Father, who watches and keeps even

each little sparrow, will certainly take care of them ; for should their enemies succeed in killing their bodies, it will only bring them the sooner to their heavenly home. These sweet words were meant for us also, and I am sure we need them ; for although all do not preach the gospel publicly, we can and ought to preach it in our homes by living and acting as Jesus would have us. Many little children are persecuted just as truly as the disciples were, by being laughed at by their playmates, or by their brothers and sisters, if they try to lead new and Christian lives ; but they should never forget that Jesus is ever near, to help and guide them, and if they go quietly on, serving Him, and at the same time pleasing others rather than themselves, those who at first ridiculed them will soon learn to love Him too.

O God, who seest even the sparrows fall, make me always to remember this when I

am afraid; that, trusting in Thy loving care, I may daily serve Thee, by following the commands of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name I ask it all. Amen.

Twenty-ninth Day.

LESSON.

THOU God seest me.

GEN. xvi. 13.

Here are only four little words for the lesson to-day, but if read prayerfully, they will be better than many chapters.

Do you think you would have been cross, and impatient with little sister or brother, this morning, angry because you could not do just what you wanted to, or neglected to learn your lessons, if you had all the time felt that God was looking at you, or that Jesus, in His great love, was so grieved and sorry to see one of His children so dishonoring Him? We should remember, too, that not only does God see our actions, and hear our words, but knows our thoughts, whether they are pure, kind, and good, or whether they are evil. It is often quite easy

to deceive our friends by a smiling face when our hearts are full of anger and hatred, but not so God. He will judge us at the last great day by our motives, thoughts, and actions. Begin this day, if you have not already, to live each hour and moment as in God's sight, not thinking of Him as an angry Judge, but as a loving Father, who will forgive your sins freely, if you are truly sorry, and are trying to please Him.

My Father who art in Heaven, I thank Thee for giving me Christian friends, to teach me of Thy great love in sending Thy dear son, Jesus Christ, to die for me; and that I may each day grow more in His heavenly image, help me ever to remember that Thou, God, seest me. I ask it all for Christ's sake. Amen.

Thirtieth Day.

LESSON.

AND as He went out of Jericho with His disciples, and a great number of people, blind Bartimeus, the son of Timeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace; but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called: and they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; He calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto Him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said

unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

St. Mark x. 46–52.

Here we see only a poor ignorant beggar, not worthy even of a passing thought, any one would say, and yet, in God's sight, he was greater than many a king, and well might we all wish to be like him, for his faith was very great, and this story will explain to you exactly what faith is; for all that blind Bartimeus did was simply to *believe* that Jesus was able to give him his sight as he asked, and he was not discouraged, even when Jesus did not at once answer him, but still cried out the more. Dear little ones, remember always that this is all you have to do: go to Jesus, and tell Him how sorry you are that you have grieved Him by your disobedience, and that you want Him to make you His little

child; and if you only believe on Him as truly as the blind man did, He surely will.

My heavenly Father, I come to Thee knowing how unworthy I am because of my sins, but believing that, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, Thou wilt hear me. Make me truly Thy little child, and daily to grow more like my blessed Saviour. Amen.

Thirty-first Day.

LESSON.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide; neither will He keep His anger forever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord

pitieth them that fear Him. Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Ps. ciii. 1–4, 8–14, 22.

After telling of all the blessings God has showered about him, and for which he wishes to praise Him, David says, Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.

How tenderly your father watches over you when you are sick; always patient when you are most fretful, and so sorry when any of your little pleasures are spoiled; and how unhappy it makes him to see you doing anything wrong, and how ready always to forgive you as soon as you are sorry.

God is just such a loving father to you, dear little reader, pitying you when in any trouble, always ready to hear your prayers, and forgive your sins, but loving you, far, far more than any earthly parent can. We should be constantly trying to think how

we can best praise His Holy Name for all His great love.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, I give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving-kindness. I bless Thee for my creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life ; but above all, for Thy great love, in the redemption of the world by Thy dear Son ; and I pray Thee that Thy goodness to me may make me so thankful, that I may walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness all my days, through Jesus Christ, my most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THOU who watch o'er Israel keepest,
Shield us by Thy mighty power;
Thou who slumberest not nor sleepest,
Watch us in the silent hour:
Now and ever
Be to us a rock and tower.

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I.

WHEN thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

PROV. iii. 24.

The day is done;
O God, the Son,
Look down upon Thy little one.

O Light of light,
Keep me this night,
And shed round me Thy Presence bright.

I need not fear
If Thou art near;
Thou art my Saviour, kind and dear.

Thy gentle eye
Is ever nigh;
It watches me when none is by.

Thy loving ear
Is ever near,
Thy little children's voice to hear.

So, happily
And peacefully,
I lay me down to rest in Thee.

To Father, Son,
And Spirit, One,
In heaven and earth all praise be done.

II.

I WILL teach you the good and the right way: Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you. 1 SAM. xii. 23, 24.

Thou, who wert a little child,
"Holy, harmless, undefiled,"
Lend Thy Spirit from above;
Teach us little ones to love.

Shepherd of the chosen flock,
Lead us to the shadowing rock;
From temptation's noontide heat
Gently guide our erring feet.

Where the waters of Thy grace
Make a fertile pasture-place,
Where no deadly foe can come,
Let us find our quiet home.

Guide us by Thy staff and rod,
To our Father and our God;
Then conduct us, in Thy love,
To Thy better fold above.

III.

THE beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him ; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between His shoulders.

DEUT. xxxiii. 12.

Passing through life's desert drear,
Fainting oft, and full of fear,
Be Thou, Jesus, ever near !

Weary of the weight of sin,
Struggling with the foe within,
Help me, Lord, at length to win !

But not lonely is the way,
If I may, from day to day,
Only hear Thy sweet voice say :

"Child, fear not, I'll never leave thee ;
Thou art mine ; let naught deceive thee ;
'Tis to prove thy love to Me.

"Well I know the griefs thou hast,
Conflicts now, and sorrows past ;
But on me thy burdens cast ! "

IV.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. DEUT. vi. 5.

When Jesus Christ was here below,
  And spread His works of love abroad,
If I had lived so long ago,
  I think I should have loved the Lord.

Jesus who was so very kind,
  Who came to pardon sinful men;
Who healed the sick, and cured the blind,
  O! must not I have loved Him then?

But where is Jesus? Is He dead?
  O no! He lives in heaven above;
"And blest are they," the Saviour said,
  "Who, though they have not seen me, love."

He sees us from His throne on high,
  As well as when on earth He dwelt;
And when to Him poor children cry,
  He feels such love as then He felt.

And if the Lord will grant me grace,
  Much I will love Him, and adore;
But when in heaven I see His face,
  'Twill be my joy to love Him more.

V.

WATCH ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

ST. MARK xiv. 38.

I am a little pilgrim,
  So I must watch and pray ;
Learn to deny myself, and tread
  The narrow, thorny way ;

The way that Jesus went,
  And all His saints have gone,
In the dear footprints of their Lord,
  With patience pressing on.

With many a holy psalm
  Their fainting steps were cheered,
While brightening to their wistful gaze
  The "far-off land" appeared,

Is not the weakest child
  The parent's tenderest care ?
So gather with Thy mighty arm,
  And in Thy bosom bear.

VI.

JESUS said unto them, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.

ST. MARK x. 14–16.

Young children once to Jesus came,
  His blessing to entreat,
And I may humbly do the same,
  Before His mercy-seat.

For when their feeble hands were spread,
  And bent each infant knee,
"Forbid them not," the Saviour said,
  And so He says to me.

Though now He is not here below,
  But on His heavenly hill,
To Him may little children go,
  And ask a blessing still.

Well pleased those little ones to see,
  The dear Redeemer smiled ;
O, then He will not frown on me,
  A poor, unworthy child.

If babes so many years ago
  His tender pity drew,
He will not surely let me go
  Without a blessing too.

Then while this favor to implore
  My little hands are spread,
Do Thou Thy sacred blessing pour,
  Dear Jesus, on my head.

VII.

THE Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. Ps. lxxxiv. 11.

O what can little hands do
To please the King of heaven?
The little hands some work may try
To help the poor in misery;
Such grace to mine be given.

O what can little lips do
To please the King of heaven?
The little lips can praise and pray,
And gentle words of kindness say;
Such grace to mine be given.

O what can little eyes do
To please the King of heaven?
The little eyes can upward look,
Can learn to read God's Holy Book;
Such grace to mine be given.

O what can little hearts do
To please the King of heaven?

Young hearts, if God His Spirit send,
Can love and trust their Saviour friend ;
Such grace to mine be given.

Though small is all that we can do
To please the King of heaven,
When hearts, and hands, and lips unite
To serve the Saviour with delight,
They are most precious in His sight ;
Such grace to mine be given.

VIII.

THOU shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins. St. Matt. i. 21.

Gentle Jesus, loving, kind,
All I need in Thee I find;
Lead me in the narrow way,
Keep me, guard me, or I stray.

Gentle Jesus, holy, good,
Wash me in Thy precious blood;
Cleanse my heart from every sin,
Make me, keep me, right within.

Gentle Jesus, while I live,
Health and strength to Thee I'll give;
All I have to Thee will bring;
Thou art worthy, Saviour King.

Gentle Jesus, when I die,
Let me feel Thee very nigh;
In Thine arms embrace me there:
Gentle Jesus, hear my prayer.

IX.

BEFORE they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. ISAIAH lxv. 24.

Jesus, high in glory,
  Lend a listening ear,
When we bow before Thee,
  In Thy presence near.
Though Thou art so holy,
  Heaven's Almighty King,
Thou wilt stoop to listen
  When Thy praise we sing.
We are erring children,
  Weak, and apt to stray;
Saviour, guide and keep us
  In the heavenly way.
Save us, Lord, from sinning,
  Watch us day by day;
Help us now to love Thee,
  Take our sins away;
Then, when Thou shalt call us
  To our heavenly home,
We will gladly answer,
  "Saviour, Lord, we come."

X.

TRUST in Him at all times; pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us. Ps. lxii. 8.

Now, Lord, we, before Thee kneeling,
  To Thy care ourselves commend;
In our helplessness appealing
  Unto Thee, our heavenly Friend.

This day's sin we come confessing,
  Hide it, Father, from Thy face;
And for this day's store of blessing
  We adore Thy boundless grace.

Through the night Thy presence cheer us,
  In Thy shadow may we sleep;
That no evil may come near us,
  Watch let angels round us keep.

In Thine arms, O Father, lying
  Safe and blessed may we be;
Sleeping, as we would be dying,
  With our faces turned to Thee.

XI.

AS one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted. ISAIAH lxvi. 13.

Lord, a little tired child
  Comes to Thee this day for rest!
Take it, fold it in Thine arms,
  Soothe its head upon Thy breast.

Through a night of wind and storm,
  By a dark and lonely sea,
Beaten back by breakers strong,
  Has its pathway seemed to be.

Weary, battered, breathless, bruised,
  Lo! it leans on Thee for rest;
Take it, fold it in Thine arms,
  Soothe its head upon Thy breast.

Whisper, as it sleepeth there,
  Tenderest, sweetest lullabies;
Till it smiles as infants do,
  Dreaming of the happy skies.

XII.

THE Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him: He will also hear their cry, and will save them. The Lord preserveth all them that love Him.

Ps. cxlv. 18–20.

Before I close my eyes to sleep,
  Lord, hear my evening prayer;
And deign a helpless child to keep
  With Thy protecting care.

Though young in years, I have been taught
  Thy name to love and fear;
Of Thee to think with solemn thought;
  Thy goodness to revere.

That goodness gives each simple flower
  Its scent, and beauty, too,
And feeds it in night's darkest hour
  With heaven's refreshing dew.

Nor will Thy mercy less delight
  The infant's God to be,
Who, through the darkness of the night,
  For safety trusts to Thee.

The little birds that sing all day
  In many a leafy wood,
By Thee are clothed in plumage gay,
  By Thee supplied with food.

And when at night they come to sing,
  By Thee protected still,
Their young ones sleep beneath their wing,
  Secure from every ill.

Thus may'st Thou guard with gracious care
  The bed whereon I lie,
And keep Thy child from every harm,
  By Thy all-watchful eye.

For night and day to Thee are one ;
  The helpless are Thy care ;
And, for the sake of Thy dear Son,
  Thou hear'st an infant's prayer.

XIII.

THERE shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. Ps. xci. 10, 11.

Up above the bright blue sky,
  Where the stars are peeping,
Further still than I can see,
Heavenly watchers over me
  Nightly care are keeping.

And, if like the angels, I
  Could behold around me,
I should see them come and go,
Pass from heaven to earth below,
  And their hosts surround me.

All day long, and all night too,
  While I am safely sleeping,
Busy in their task of love,
They are sent from heaven above,
  Faithful vigil keeping.

And, whilst us from evil things
  Angels are defending,
Little children robed in white,
Sing before the throne of light,
  In daylight never ending.

Jesus took them for His own,
  Made them pure and holy;
And on earth His gentle love
Prepared them for their home above,
  Safe from sin and folly.

Blessed Jesus, take me too,
  Though I'm weak and lowly;
Let Thy gentle grace within,
Make my garments white and clean,
  And my spirit holy.

XIV.

FOR there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether. Ps. cxxxix. 4.

Words are things of little cost,
Quickly spoken, quickly lost ;
We forget them, but they stand
Witnesses at God's right hand ;
And their testimony bear
For us, or against us, there.

O, how often ours have been
Idle words, and words of sin !
Words of anger, scorn, and pride,
Or desire our faults to hide,
Envious tales, or strife unkind,
Leaving bitter thoughts behind.

Grant us, Lord, from day to day,
Strength to watch, and grace to pray ;
May our lips, from sin set free,
Love to speak and sing of Thee,
Till in heaven we learn to raise
Hymns of everlasting praise.

XV.

HE will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when He shall hear it, He will answer thee.

ISAIAH XXX. 19.

O Lord, though Thou dwellest on high,
  Yet near to Thy children Thou art,
And seest, with pitying eye,
  The humble and contrite in heart.

From the throne of Thy glory uplift
  Upon us the light of Thy face,
Make known Thy unspeakable gift
  While we kneel at the throne of Thy grace.

In us may Thy good Spirit plead;
  May He help us, and teach us to pray;
For us may Thy Son intercede,
  That our sin may be taken away.

May we, as Thy children, draw near,
  To commune with Him whom we love;
And fit us, while sojourning here,
  For a better communion above.

We ask not that Thou wouldst bestow
  Each blessing for which we may plead,
But that our true want we may know,
  And have what Thou seest we need.

And ever, O Lord, when we pray,
  This blessing in mercy impart,
Thy presence to shine on our way,
  Thy peace to abide in our heart.

XVI.

AND whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, Verily, I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. ST. MATT. x. 42.

Suppose the glistening dew-drop
  Upon the grass should say,
" What can a little dew-drop do ?
  I'd better roll away."
The blade on which it rested,
  Before the day was done,
Without a drop to moisten it,
  Would wither in the sun.

How many deeds of kindness
  A little child may do,
Although it has so little strength
  And little wisdom too.
It wants a loving spirit,
  Much more than strength, to prove
How many things a child may do
  For others by his love.

XVII.

JESUS saith, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. St. John xiv. 6.

Jesus, meek and gentle,
  Son of God most high,
Pitying, loving Saviour,
  Hear Thy children's cry.
Give us holy freedom,
  Fill our hearts with love;
Draw us, Holy Jesus!
  To the realms above.

Lead us on our journey,
  Be Thyself the way
Through terrestrial darkness
  To celestial day.
Jesus, meek and gentle,
  Son of God most high,
Pitying, loving Saviour,
  Hear Thy children's cry!

XVIII.

THE angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them. Ps. xxxiv. 7.

Almighty God, to-night
  To Thee for help we pray;
To whom the darkness is as light,
  And midnight like the day.

Thy tender love and care
  Prepares our peaceful bed,
But Thou, O Saviour, had'st not where
  To lay Thy blessed head.

O keep us now from harm,
  As Thou hast done before;
And let Thine everlasting arm
  Be round us evermore.

Let holy angels stand
  About us every night,
Until they bear us to the land
  Of everlasting light.

XIX.

AND God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.

REV. xxi. 4.

'Tis Jesus sends us sickness,
  So when in pain or ill,
I'll try to bear it meekly,
  Because it is His will.

I'll think of Him who suffered
  Upon the cross for me:
Can I not bear a little,
  My blessed Lord, for Thee?

It is Thy love which makes me
  To leave my merry play,
To lie here still and quiet,
  And give up my own way.

Lord Jesus, give me patience,
  Lord Jesus, give me love;
Lord Jesus, give hereafter
  A life with Thee above!

XX.

I WILL both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety. Ps. iv. 8.

Gracious Saviour, bend Thine ear,
While now Thy little one draws near,
And, bowing low before Thy throne,
Thy tender love and care would own.

Now let Thy guardian angels keep
Their watch beside me while I sleep;
And when the night has passed away,
Let me arise another day.

Forgive me, Jesus, now I plead,
My sins this day, of word and deed;
O, wilt Thou now Thy blessing give,
And let me in Thy favor live?

A weak and sinful child am I;
But Thou for such didst come to die;
And still for children dost Thou care,
And lov'st to hear their simple prayer.

XXI.

AND He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them : and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. ST. LUKE ii. 51, 52.

There was of old a poor man's home
  Within a lonely Eastern town,
Wherein our blessed Saviour lived,
  When He to earth from heaven came down.

There He who is the King of kings
  Stooped down from highest heaven above,
And deigned to dwell with men of toil,
  Beneath a poor and lowly roof.

There did He live, a little child ;
  Was subject to His parents' sway ;
There toiled perchance with willing hand,
  And grew in wisdom day by day.

O let us oft in reverent thought
  Unto that pleasant home repair,

And watch awhile in silent awe
  His duteous deed, His filial care.

The breeze blows fragrant from the hill ;
  The blue lake gently murmurs near ;
But sweeter than the mountain flower,
  And purer than the waters clear,

The rose beneath that pleasant roof,
  The Holy child so pure and fair,
In meek obedience, year by year,
  Love's perfect pattern lingering there.

Then turn we back with hearts made brave,
  Obedient in our daily round :
And by His blest example taught
  Be holy, meek, and gentle found.

So peace shall dwell within our homes,
  There love shall linger pure and mild,
And Christ Himself be there to bless,
  Who was of old a lowly child.

XXII.

HE shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Ps. xci. 4.

God, Almighty Father!
  Who of all art King;
Who hast made and guardest
  Every living thing:
Keep me safe forever
  'Neath Thy sheltering wing.

God and Man, Christ Jesus!
  Who with Thine own blood
Boughtest me, O Saviour!
  Help me to be good:
Make me live, Lord Jesus!
  As Thy children should.

God, the Holy Spirit!
  Pure, most pure Thou art;
Be Thou ever with me,
  Dwell within my heart:

Bid all thought of evil
  Far from thence depart.

Trinity most Holy !
  Father, Spirit, Son !
One in Three forever,
  Ever Three in One !
May I praise Thee alway,
  When this life is done.

XXIII.

THY God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee.

DAN. vi. 16.

Under Thy wings, my God,
  Close by Thy side,
Safe from the windy storm,
  Joyful I hide.
Oft Thou hast callèd me —
Now while the cloud I see,
Swiftly I run to Thee,
  Close to Thy side.

Under Thy wings, my God,
  Safely to hide,
Gather Thy little ones,
  Close by Thy side:
Side wounded sore for me,
Bleeding and bruised I see —
Cover, O cover me,
  Close by Thy side.

XXIV.

AND they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee.

Ps. ix. 10.

The storm was loud, the ship was tossed
  On dark Gennesareth,
Their faith the twelve apostles lost,
  Then face to face with death.

But safe they were in their alarm,
  Upon that raging sea;
No angry wind or wave could harm
  Those who were dear to Thee.

And ever in the darkest night,
  And in the wildest hour,
Thy love, O Lord, can bring me light,
  Thy voice put forth its power.

Light which in shining will impart
  A holy joy and peace;
A power to still the restless heart,
  And bid the tempest cease.

Why should this fluttering heart have fear,
  In darkness or in death,
While Thou, my Saviour, still art near
  To help its trembling faith ?

Why doubt, as if Thou couldst deceive,
  Why droop in hopeless grief,
While I can cry, " Lord, I believe,
  O help my unbelief ! "

XXV.

FOR the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

ST. LUKE xix. 10.

Jesus, tender Saviour,
  Hast Thou died for me?
Make me very thankful
  In my heart to Thee.

When the sad, sad story
  Of Thy grief I read,
Make me very sorry
  For my sins indeed.

Now I know Thou livest,
  And dost plead for me;
Make me very thankful,
  In my prayers to Thee.

Soon I hope in glory,
  At Thy side to stand;
Make me fit to meet Thee
  In that happy land.

XXVI.

BUT thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

ST. MATT. vi. 6.

Before Thee, Lord, my High Priest stands;
  A spotless robe He wears;
He pleads for me, and in His hands
  A golden censer bears.
Pure, all-prevailing in Thy sight,
  His intercessions rise,
More precious than on Zion's height
  The evening sacrifice.

Weak, faltering, sinful is my prayer,
  Thou Holy One, but He
Can make it find acceptance there,
  And give it power with Thee.
His is the sacred altar-fire:
  He is the Lamb who dies;
And He can make my heart's desire
  An evening sacrifice.

Now when my heart draws near to Thee
  Upon Thy mercy-seat,
Before Thee let His pleading be
  Like incense rising sweet.
For faith His finished work to plead,
  My burdened spirit cries ;
O make my evening prayer indeed
  An evening sacrifice.

XXVII.

ARE not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. ST. LUKE xii. 6, 7.

Ah yes, and will not He, my God,
  Who for the sparrow's fall
An eager, watchful eye doth keep,
  And, careful for them all —
The springing grass doth gayly clothe,
  And e'en the tiny bee
In richest robe of gold hath dressed —
  Will He not care for me?

O, how much more, my soul will He,
  Though yet my faith be small,
If I but bravely lean on Him,
  My Lord, my Life, my All!
Then ever to that mighty Rock
  For refuge will I flee;
And on His bosom rest secure,
  For He has died for me!

XXVIII.

BEHOLD, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save: neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

ISAIAH lix. 1.

Great Jehovah! God of glory!
O, let children lisp Thy name!
Humbly now we fall before Thee,
Thy almighty grace our theme!
Hosts of seraphs, joined in chorus,
Love divine proclaim on high;
Hear us, hear, O God most glorious,
While the same blest theme we try!

Hail Immanuel! Once incarnate,
Bleeding, dying on the tree!
Little children Thou invitest,
Without dread to come to Thee!
At Thy word behold us coming;
May we, Lord, Thy mercy prove!
Number us among Thy children,
Thee to serve, and trust, and love!

"May we live to know and fear Thee,
Trust and love Thee all our days,

Then go dwell forever near Thee,
  See Thy face, and sing Thy praise."
Jesus, God of consolation,
  Best of Friends in pity move !
Bless us, Lord, with Thy salvation,
  And accept our infant love !

XXIX.

THEY shall not hunger nor thirst, neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall He guide them.

ISAIAH xlix. 10.

Father, unto Thee we raise
Simple strains of earnest praise, —
Praise for blessings freely given,
Health, and strength, and hope of heaven.
Hear, O Father, hear our strain,
Bless our youthful hearts again.

May we strive to look to Thee;
Make us what we ought to be;
Cleanse us from the sins of youth;
Grant the spirit of Thy truth;
Lead us in the narrow way
To Thyself, O Lord, we pray.

Father, high in heaven above,
Thou wilt smile in sweetest love

Even on a child who prays,
Asking Thee to guide its ways ;
Father, bless us now we pray,
Guide us in the narrow way.

XXX.

DRAW nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. JAMES iv. 8.

Hushed was the evening hymn,
  The temple courts were dark ;
The lamp was burning dim
  Before the sacred Ark,
When suddenly a voice divine
Rang through the silence of the shrine.

The old man, meek and mild,
  The priest of Israel, slept ;
His watch the temple child,
  The little Levite, kept ;
And what from Eli's sense was sealed,
The Lord to Hannah's son revealed.

O give me Samuel's ear,
  The open ear, O Lord,
Alive and quick to hear
  Each whisper of Thy word ;
Like him to answer at Thy call,
And to obey Thee first of all.

O give me Samuel's heart,
  A lowly heart that waits,
When in Thy house Thou art,
  Or watches at Thy gates ;
By day and night, a heart that still
Moves at the breathing of Thy will.

O give me Samuel's mind,
  A sweet unmurmuring faith,
Obedient and resigned
  To Thee in life and death :
That I may read with childlike eyes,
Truths that are hidden from the wise.

XXXI.

AND every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever.

REV. V. 13.

The child stood on the sandy beach,
  And watched the waves at play,
And as they rose in mimic wrath,
  Then kissed the smiling bay,
They struck the sweet and solemn chord,
"We praise our Maker and our Lord."

The child went o'er the rocky pool,
  And saw, through coral bowers,
The fish dart out with silver sheen,
  'Mid stars and living flowers :
Then join the sweet and solemn chord,
"We praise our Maker and our Lord."

And from the hoary mountain's top,
  And from each spreading tree,
And from the daisy hid in grass,
  And from the honey-bee,
He heard the sweet and solemn chord,
"We praise our Maker and our Lord."

And from the glad things in the wood.
  From squirrels leaping high,
And from the loving mother bird,
  And from the starry sky,
Up rose the sweet and solemn chord,
"We praise our Maker and our Lord."

And from two childish human hearts
  It came more clear and sweet,
As, kneeling low, their spirits rose,
  Their Father's smile to meet:
They sang, but struck the sweet new chord,
"*We* praise our *Saviour* and our Lord."

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